

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2688

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS KN
SUBJ: KOREA AT 32ND UNGA

REF: (A) SEOUL 2183, (B) STATE 55418

1. POLCOUNS AND EMBOFF MET WITH MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG-U-YONG MARCH 31 TO DISCUSS ROK PERCEPTIONS OF FUTURE OF KOREAN QUESTION IN UN AND AFTERMATH OF FONMIN'S VISIT TO US. CHUNG SAID FONMIN HAD BEEN GREATLY REASSURED BY STRONG US SUPPORT FOR ROK POSITION IN UN AS ENUNCIATED BY SECRETARY VANCE AND US AMBASSADOR TO UN YOUNG.

2. CHUNG, WHO IS THE PREMIER WORRIER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS ALMOST AS RELAXED AS WE HAVE EVER SEEN HIM, WHICH IS TO SAY THAT HE WAS STILL SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT HOLDING A CORE GROUP MEETING AS LATE AS MAY AND EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR CORE GROUP MEETING IN LATE APRIL ON ASSUMPTION THAT EARLY LOBBYING START WILL KEEP NORTH KOREA OFF BALANCE AND ENCOURAGE REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S KOREAN QUESTION OUTCOME IN UNGA. CHUNG AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN NEW DELHI APRIL 6-11 WILL BE MAIN INDICATOR OF BOTH NORTH KOREAN
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APPROACH AND ATTITUDE OF NON-ALIGNED TOWARD KOREAN QUESTION AT 32ND UNGA, AND THAT CORE GROUP SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE UNTIL IT CLEAR NORTH IS DOING SO.

3. CHUNG NOTED THAT COMPARED TO THIS TIME LAST YEAR NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY HAS BEEN LESS FRENETIC, AND THAT TEN NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF NORTH

KOREA'S UN MISSION, WERE STILL IN PYONGYANG WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH. HE SPECULATED THAT THIS MIGHT INDICATE THAT NORTH KOREA TOO WAS AWAITING OUTCOME OF NEW DELHI CONFERENCE AND SAID THAT GREATEST DANGER IN UPCOMING UNGA WAS THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD DECIDE TO PURSUE MODERATE POSITION SUCH AS PROPOSING ABOLITION OF UN COMMAND WITHOUT MENTIONING TROOP WITHDRAWAL. CHUNG WAS CONCERNED THAT CORE GROUP WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY PUTTING TOGETHER RESOLUTION TO COMBAT SUCH A MOVE GIVEN NEED FOR SIMPLICITY IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSING ANY NON-ALIGNED STATES WHICH WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH KOREAN QUESTION.

4. CHUNG NOTED THAT ROK HAD BEEN PURSUING LOBBYING EFFORTS OF ITS OWN, DISPATCHING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER TO AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, WHERE HE IS JUST NOW CONCLUDING A SERIES OF VISITS. HE NOTED THAT MEXICO WAS SENDING A FACT FINDING MISSION TO THE ROK WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEXICAN EMBASSY IN SEOUL. CHUNG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GUATEMALA FONMIN AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT TO SEOUL MARCH 27 HAD SAID GUATEMALA WOULD ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN SEOUL AND THAT SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI HAD ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SUDAN AND ROK IN NEAR FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

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